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in the news

INSIDE

Billy Joel's latest album, *52nd Street*, is somewhat of a disappointment for fans of his previous work.

p6

The men's fencing team, after a disappointing opening loss to Harvard, won two of three meets in a trip to the New York area.

p8

WEATHER

Light rain today under cloudy skies with an offshore wind. Highs in the mid to upper forties. Scattered rain tonight with an occasional thunderstorm, lows in the forties. For Saturday, rain continuing early in the day with warm temperatures. Highs in the middle fifties to near sixty inland. Rain ending by Saturday night or early Sunday morning. Lows in the upper thirties. For Sunday, drier and cooler, with temperatures in the forties. Rain probability eighty percent today and tonight, sixty percent Saturday, thirty percent Saturday night.

EXCERPTS

I was in the bathroom shaving this morning when my girlfriend asked me a question that started this line of thought. It went like this: "Hey Dan, you know what the name of this space heater is? A Blow Master." Now at 12 or 13 I may have laughed, but would have wondered why it was funny. Now, at 24, it got a chuckle (or what passed for a chuckle that early in the morning). The point being, some guy in the late 40's or early 50's called this piece of industrial post-deco a Blow Master in all innocence. Hipness is knowing something someone else doesn't.

—Dan Gillman
The Stanford Daily

THE TECH

The Tech is pleased to announce the appointment of Marlon Weiss '80 as Associate Night Editor.

Joint comm. to advise Corporation

By Mike Ries and
William Cimino

The formation of a faculty committee to act and advise the MIT Corporation in the selection of a new president for the Institute will be announced at the next faculty committee meeting, scheduled for December 13, by Robert I. Hulsizer, Chairman on the Faculty.

According to Paul Lagace G, who was appointed to the Corporation Joint Advisory Committee on Institute Wide Affairs (C-JAC) last October, there will be three committees involved in the selection of the new president. The CJAC and the faculty committee will act as advisory boards to the eight member Corporation Committee which the MIT corporation appointed at its quarterly meeting on December 1.

CJAC is a committee comprised of five students, five corporation members, and five faculty members. The committee serves as a liaison between the MIT community and the corporation. By presenting the views of the students, employees, and faculty to the corporation, CJAC provides perspective for the Corporation whose decisions affect the MIT community.

The faculty committee and CJAC will ultimately present their recommendations to the Corporation Committee which, in turn will present its recommendations to the Corporation.



Dr. James R. Killian, Jr.
1949 - 1959



Dr. Howard W. Johnson
1966 - 1971



1980 - ?



Dr. Julius A. Stratton
1959 - 1966



Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner
1971 - 1980

Lagace emphasized that "C-JAC does not make the final decision. This is the responsibility of the Corporation." The ultimate action of the CJAC will be to compile a list of names to submit as recommendations for the position from which President Jerome B. Wiesner will retire in June, 1980.

"The committee (CJAC) has no specific issues that it has to deal with from year to year. It deals with topics that the corporation and committee feel affect the MIT community" stated Lagace. The CJAC members have not yet defined their role in the choosing of the new president. According to Lagace, "this is not something

which has been decided yet." He added, "It is not clear as to whether the CJAC can make any specific recommendations. We will be actively soliciting advice from the general community and I will be very willing to talk to any students on the presidency as to who should be considered and why he should be considered."

New dormitory planned for 1981

By Richard Salz

The Program Planning Group/Client Team, led by Associate Dean for Student Affairs in Charge of Housing Robert Sherwood and Director of Housing and Food Services Eugene Brammer, has been charged to prepare a report with suggestions and ideas for the structure of the new dormitory to be built in the Tang parking lot. Two other administrators are also involved, Campus Architect Harry Portnoy and Bob Simha of the Planning Office.

The other members of the committee are Julian Beinhart, Nate Cook, Bill Thilly, and Jim Williams, all of the faculty; Charlie Rohrs, Charlie Crespi, and Stan Morse, graduate students; and Steve Forman '80, George Lesiuetre '81, Tom Potter '79, Mark Stern '79, Robert Steinberg '81, and Jon McCombie '81, undergraduates.

Current plans call for the new dormitory to be finished and ready for student use by September of 1981, so the Planning Group is under a tight schedule. "They originally wanted the report on January 8, but Dean Sherwood said that wasn't enough time to get student input," explained DormCon President Potter, a member of the Planning Group.

The Group's report will be the "principle source of information" for the architects and contractor, according to Simha. "After the report is out, Gene Brammer and I will follow through and make sure the suggestions and recommendations are followed," explained Sherwood. Sherwood also intends to periodically report to

the student body on the status of the construction and how well the Group's recommendations are being followed.

The Group has had one meeting so far, an open meeting last Wednesday. According to Potter, no one but the Group members attended. The next meeting will be Monday evening at 7pm in New House. Sherwood emphasized the need for students to attend the meeting, especially those in New House since one of the charges to the Group is to study New House and analyze its flaws.

New House has no dining hall or commons area. Rather, it has a central arcade that was designed to bring the house together. Apparently it doesn't work. "There's a lack of house unity. They can't

have a large party or house meeting," noted Potter, adding that he's not sure where New House's Monday meeting will be held.

Sherwood agreed with the lack of unity, saying he feels New House is more like six independent fraternities. However, he added, "I haven't heard a great deal of negative comments."

The Group's other major responsibility deals with parking facilities. The roughly 200 parking spaces in Tang lot that will be destroyed by the construction will have to be replaced. In addition, Cambridge zoning laws required one parking spot for every four beds, so an additional 75 spaces will have to be created.

Simha is responsible for the parking. He has no definite plans,

but he assumes that MIT will probably buy land within a "reasonable walking distance" of the new dormitory. Potter and Sherwood both named property off Vassar Street as the likely choice. Simha is also considering re-allocating some of the existing parking spaces as well. He will also have to find spaces for people to use in the interim to replace the Tang lot while construction is going on.

The only details set for the new dormitory are that it will be a low-rise, like New House, housing 300 students. The Group will be expected to make recommendations on every other aspect of the dorm's internal structure. "The idea is to build a dorm that gets rid of New House's flaws," said Potter.



The MIT Press Book Sale continues today from 10am to 9pm and tomorrow from 10am to 4pm. The sale, in the Student Center, features over one thousand titles on subjects including art, architecture, photography, linguistics, engineering, economics, math physics, music, and life, earth, and space sciences.

Mountaineering #4.

THE OPTIMUM MOMENT

Mountaineering¹ is a skill of timing as well as technique. The wrong moment, like the wrong method, marks the gap between amateur and aficionado. So the key to successful mountaineering is to choose the occasions wisely and well. When, then, is it appropriate to slowly quaff the smooth, refreshing mountains of Busch Beer?

Celebrations, of course, are both expected and excellent opportunities to test your mountaineering mettle. Indeed, on major holidays it is virtually

mandatory to do so. Imagine ushering in the fiscal new year or commemorating Calvin C. Coolidge's birthday or throwing

ing caution to the wind during Take-A-Sorghum-To-Lunch-Week without the benefit of Busch. A disturbing prospect at best.

On the other hand, not every event need be as significant as those outlined above.

Small victories like exams passed, papers completed or classes attended are equally acceptable. Remember the mountaineer's motto: matriculation is celebration.

Interpersonal relationships are also

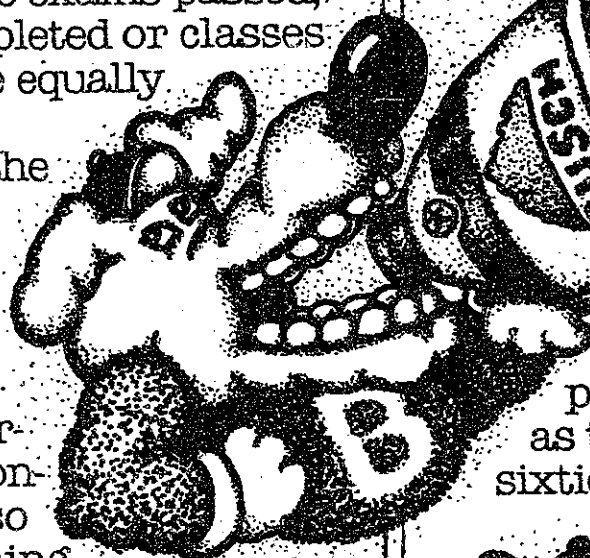
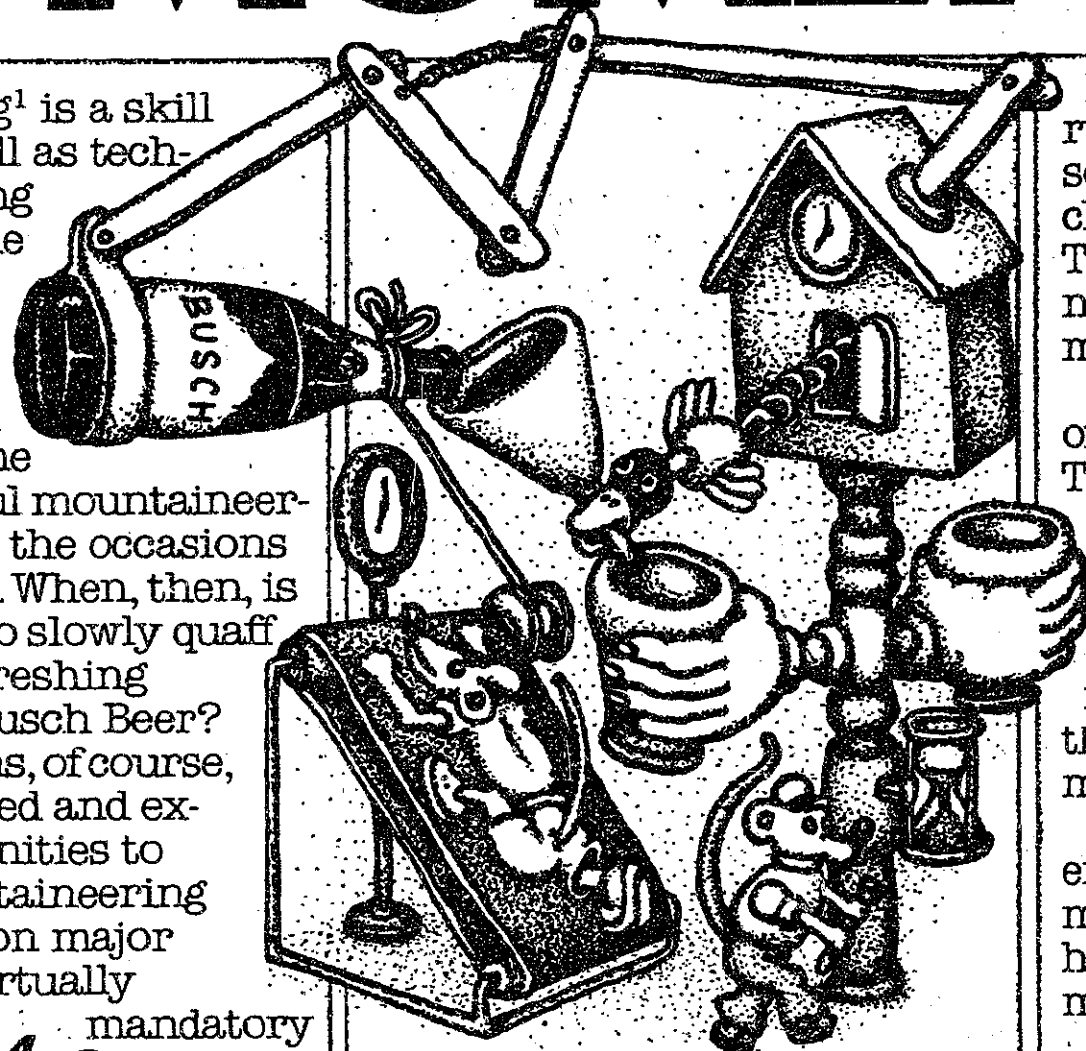
meaningful times. There are few things finer than taking your companion in hand and heading for the mountains, transcending the hum and hum-drum in favor of a romantic R & R. Naturally, couples who share the

pleasures of mountaineering run the risk of being labeled social climbers. But such cheap shots are to be ignored. They are the work of cynics, nay-sayers and chronic malcontents.

Similarly, the ambience of an athletic afternoon (e.g. The Big Game) is another ideal moment. Downing the mountains elevates the morale of the fan and, hence, the team. Therefore, if you care at all about the outcome, it is your duty to mountaineer.

When should one not enjoy the invigoration of the mountains? Here, you'll be happy to learn, the list is much briefer.

Mountaineering is considered declassé with dessert, improper during judicial proceedings and just plain foolish while crop dusting around power lines. Otherwise, as the hot-heads of the sixties used to say, "Seize the time!"



¹Mountaineering is the science and art of drinking Busch. The term originates due to the snowy, icy peaks sported by the label outside and perpetuates due to the cold, naturally refreshing taste inside. (cf. lessons 1, 2 and 3.)



Don't just reach for a beer.

Head for the mountains.

news roundup

World

Americans evacuate Iran — Diplomatic forewarnings of "big trouble" caused US business firms to begin bringing home employees and their families on Wednesday. Violent outbreaks stemming primarily from protests against Iran's military government were expected to culminate Sunday with the public self-flagellation of thousands of Moslems. In the meantime, President Carter reiterated support for the Shah and announced plans for a National Security Council study on Iran.

National

Unleaded gas price hike looms — Alfred Kahn testified Wednesday before the congressional Joint Economic Committee that if price regulation is causing a shortage of unleaded gasoline, then higher-priced gas is the only alternative to long lines or rationing. Kahn, chairman of the Council on Wage and Price Stability, is President Carter's chief inflation fighter.

Local

Firm exploits no-bid bonanza — Persil Construction Company of Roxbury has collected a large portion of hundreds of thousands of dollars in no-bid contracts awarded by the Boston Redevelopment Authority. Most of the contracts were for emergency tasks or projects worth under \$2500. They were therefore exempt from guidelines requiring publicly advertised bidding. Nobody has charged legal wrongdoing in the affair.

—Lenny Martin

notes

* Freshman evaluation forms are due on Friday, December 15. Instructor turn in deadline is Tuesday, January 2.

* Many foreign students planning to travel outside of the United States during the holiday/vacation period will need documents to return to the US for their Spring studies. Students anticipating such travel are urged to visit the Foreign Student Office, 3-107, to insure that they possess the necessary documents for travel.

* Bell Laboratories Summer Research Program for Minorities and Women: This program offers women and members of minority groups opportunities for technical employment experience at Bell's research laboratories in Murray Hill, Crawford Hill, West Long Branch, and Holmdel, New Jersey. Students who apply should plan to be available for at least 10 weeks starting in early June and normally should have completed their third year of college. Applications must be received by January 31 and may be picked up in Room 3-136 or by writing directly to: Administra-

tion, Summer Research Program, Room 3A-433, 100 Mountain Ave, Murray Hill, N.J. 07974. Further information can be obtained from Dean Jeanne Richard, Room 3-136, ext. 3-4869.

* Acclaimed playwright Edward Albee will speak on "The Playwright Versus the Theatre" as part of the Boston University Distinguished Lecture Series on December 11. The lecture will begin at 8pm in Morse Auditorium, 602 Commonwealth Ave. Admission is free with a Boston University ID and is \$2.00 for the general public, who will be admitted only after 7:45pm.

The Tech elects new board

Special to The Tech

Steve Frann '80 was elected Chairman of *The Tech* for Volume 99 by the members of the outgoing Volume 98 Board in the annual election meeting held last Sunday.

Frann heads the first all-junior Executive Board since 1972. Frann will be joined on the Executive Board by Editor-in-Chief Tom Curtis, Managing Editor Katy Gropp, Business Manager Pandora Berman, and Executive Editor Bob Wasserman. The Executive Board will supervise the operations of *The Tech*.

William Cimino '80 and Ken Hamilton '81 were elected News Editors at the meeting. They will join Frann, Curtis, Gropp, and

Wasserman on the Editorial Board which sets *The Tech's* editorial policy.

Other elected Board members are Night Editors Eric Sklar '81, Stephanie Pollack '82, and Jon von Zelowitz '82; Arts Editors Joel West '79 and David Shaw '81; Sports Editors Gordon Haff '79 and Bob Host '81; Photo Editors Chuck Irwin '80 and Steve Solnick '81; Advertising Manager Lynn Grabert '80; Contributing Editors John Hopper '79, Gary Engelson '80, John Grunsfeld '80, Jordana Hollander '81, Leigh Passman '81, and Michael Taviss '81; and Senior Editors Mike Brzustowicz '79, Brenda Hambleton '79, Lee Lindquist '79, David Schaller '79,

David Thompson '78, and Rebecca Waring '79.

Four Associate Editor appointments were approved by the Board. They are Associate News Editors Gordon Hunter '80 and Jay Glass '82; Associate Night Editor Marlon Weiss '80; and Associate Arts Editor Margie Beale '82.

The new Board members will assume their duties at the beginning of the Spring term. The board is the oldest in many years with nine seniors, ten juniors, eight sophomores, and only two freshmen. It is also one of the most experienced with 19 members of the current Board on the new Board.

Police Blotter

(The Police Blotter is a report written by the Campus Patrol on crimes, incidents, and actions on the MIT campus each week.)

EC Investigation

An investigation into the disappearance of valuable Institute equipment has led to the East Campus area. Officers will continue to pursue their leads.

Christmas/IAP Storage

As in past years, the Campus Police will make available storage space for students absent from the campus over the Christmas vacation and/or IAP, who have small, valuable property to store (stereos, TV's, etc.). Due to a serious shortage of storage space, the following guidelines will be observed:

- Items to be stored must be reasonably small (No bicycles please!).
- They must be completely contained in sealed boxes or cases.
- The boxes or cases must be clearly marked with the owner's name, term address and expected date of return.

cles placed into storage. These receipts should be retained, as they will be required in order to reclaim property stored.

Larceny at Runkle

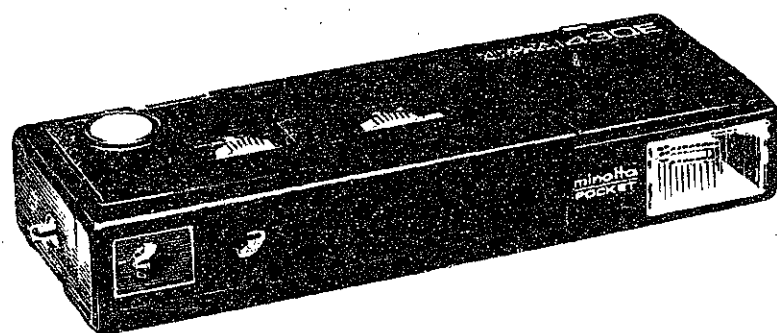
The wallet of a student living in the Runkle section of Senior House was stolen from the desk top of her unlocked, unattended room late in the evening Wednesday. It was later recovered, minus the cash. Around the time of the larceny, other Runkle residents saw a stranger wandering around the upper floor corridor near the victim's room, but unfortunately his presence went unreported until after the theft had been discovered, by which time he had vanished.

Articles may be placed into or taken out of storage during the hours 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday through Friday, not including holidays. All items will be stored at Campus Police Headquarters (W31-215).

Storage space will become available at 8:30am, Monday, December 18, 1978. All items must be reclaimed by Second Term Registration Day, Monday, February 5, 1979.

Receipts will be given for arti-

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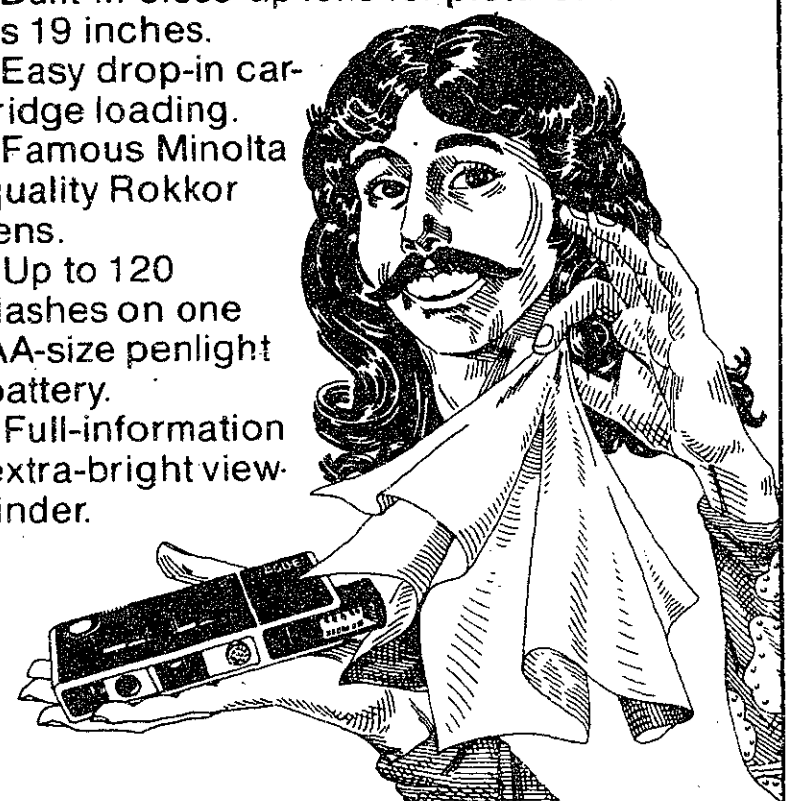
the Coop

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M.I.T. STUDENT CENTER

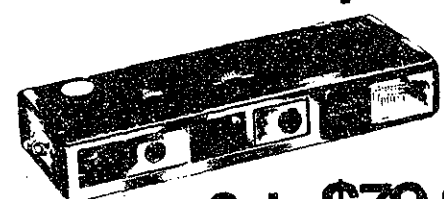
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SCIENCE vs MATH

Imagine identical basketball playing twins in identical space ships travelling at 0.9c and closing on each other directly so their closing speed is 1.8c relative or 0.99c relativistic.

Each twin would observe the other twin's clock is running more than twice as fast as his and the other's space ship is less than half as long but has over twice as much mass. According to Einstein each twin notices absolutely no changes in his own space ship or clock. When each twin stands on the floor or wall and spins the ball on the end of his finger the other twin sees the ball shortened only in the space ship's direction of motion no matter what spin the ball is given.

Imagine we rapidly switch the twins back and forth between the space ships. How many switches would they make before they conclude mass does not increase with speed, time does not run faster or slower or an object does not get smaller. These things only APPEAR to change because of relative motion and the finite speed of all forces at a distance. An accelerated charged particle does not get more mass as it is accelerated it simply becomes more difficult to control from a fixed source such as we have in ALL accelerators.

For details see page 151 of 12 Oct. 78 *New Scientist*, page 8 of 23 Oct 78 *Princeton Alumni Weekly*, page 107 of Oct 78 *Physics Today* or send SASE to: JW Ecklin, 6143K Edsall Rd., Alexandria VA 22304. If you want to collaborate on a physics textbook or a magazine article please advise.

$$V = \frac{v_1 + v_2}{1 + \frac{v_1 v_2}{c^2}}$$

opinion

A simple lesson on Chinese life

By Bob Wasserman

I could barely contain my excitement as I waited for the last passenger to get off the plane from the West Coast. On it, I knew, was Tran Sfur-Yee, the first exchange student from China to attend MIT for almost thirty years. And I, although only a sophomore at the Institute, was to be her guide for the first semester here.

There she was!! Rather short in stature with short black hair and small wire-rimmed glasses, she had an intense expression of studiousness. In short, she looked like a nerd. But I was soon to be proved wrong.

something else

"Hello," I said, "I'm Jim, your guide at MIT. Welcome to the United States."

After exchanging greeting and other formalities, we left the airport and prepared for her first tour of the institution which she and her government had chosen for her studies.

* * *

Walking through Building 7, Tran and I spotted a gray-haired gentleman smoking a pipe. Sensing the importance of the man, she inquired about his identity.

"That's Jerry Wiesner, the President of MIT," I replied gladly. "He's been a very popular and respected President, but unfortunately he's going to retire soon."

"Oh really," said Tran, "And when is the Revolution to happen which will replace him? Is US science and technology that advanced that you can even predict your revolutions?"

"No, no, we're not going to have a revolution at MIT to find a new President. The MIT Corporation has set up a committee to select Wiesner's successor," I explained.

"Corporation? Hmm, very American," she commented. But she still seemed confused. "How will the people tell them who they want? Where are your wall posters?"

"That's not the way we do it. . . ." I replied in exasperation. I was attempting to explain political processes at MIT further when I was rescued from the task by bumping into an outgoing, medium-height student with a moustache.

"That was Barry Newman," I told her, eager to change the subject. "He is the President of the Undergraduate Student Association. He's been working hard as UAP this year, and has even succeeded in reviving the UA General Assembly, a governing body which had been neglected and unaffectionate for years."

"This student Politburo of yours," Tran asked me, "It was sort of a government-in-exile, right?"

"Yea, sure, when you think about it," I admitted.

"Ah, we have the same phenomena in China, also. We call it Taiwan."

Just then a speeding taxi roared down Massachusetts Avenue, nearly hitting us as we were crossing the street.

"These automobiles, they are disgusting," Tran observed, "Don't you Americans have bicycles?"

"Of course, but bicycles can't ride in the streets, because all the trucks, cars and buses make it too dangerous."

"I can see the whole story, now," said Tran, "Long ago automobiles were very pleasant, but then bicycles came along and threatened to make the automobile extinct due to the obvious advantages of the bicycle. In self-defense, then, automobile-makers began to manufacture them as large, as noisy, and as dirty as they could in order to force the more popular bicycles off the roads. Is that correct?"

"I really am not an expert in those matters," I was forced to reply. Hoping to change the subject, I invited her to play a game of table tennis, knowing that the sport was a favorite in China.

"I would be delighted to play ping pong," she answered. "It is an old Chinese custom, even dating back from before the building of the Great Wall. There's an ancient Chinese proverb about it, from Confucius. It goes. . ."

"Wait, wait," I interrupted, (now I was the one who was confused) "are you sure?" Not wanting to hear her answer, I decided to try one last time to impress her with American life.

"Look at the Christmas tree over there," I exclaimed, pointing to the lighted evergreen near the Student Center steps. "Christmas is our most important holiday, a time when the spirit of giving spreads throughout the land."

"No wonder American business is so successful," Tran replied. "The culture here gives moral and religious credence to buying and collecting material possessions. I believe I am finally beginning to understand your country."

Now if I could only begin to understand hers.

The Tech

David Schaller '78 — Chairman
Bob Wasserman '80 — Editor-in-Chief
Steven F. Frann '80 — Managing Editor
Lee Lindquist '79 — Business Manager

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feedback

The writing on the pillar

To the editor:

As a sophomore who, while not on the Ring Committee, has been closely involved with the recent Rat controversy, I would like to comment on several things.

First, the poster that started the confusion: as co-author, I would like to set the record straight on its purpose and actual content. When I learned on Tuesday afternoon that the final vote on the designs would be taken that evening, I was very concerned that no attempt had been made to take any sort of large class poll on the question, especially since the suggested change was such a major one. I was told that the members of the committee had personally gone around with pictures of the new design, but I could not believe that nine people would reach a large enough percentage of the class in the one day they had allotted for that purpose (Monday night was supposed to be the final vote meeting, but the committee decided to get opinions on Tuesday and then vote again after the Monday vote became deadlocked at 4-4). I suggested the poster as an attempt to get more opinions — any opinions — on the matter. Volume of replies was the goal, and we

decided that a poster would probably reach the most people in the short time remaining before the meeting. The sign went up at 2:00pm and was taken down at 6:30pm. Students were invited to come to the meeting if they were concerned, because the meetings had never been designated as "closed." Also, they were invited to call Lori Ullman or Tom Chang — as Class Pres. and VP, respectively, we felt they were the first ones who should be contacted. I agree that they should have been contacted in reference to the use of their names, and I apologize to both for not doing so. However, I was extremely disappointed when, on Tuesday evening, Lori complained so vehemently about the fact that some students had actually been interested enough to call her, especially after she had stated that afternoon that she welcomed class opinion.

The poster has been accused of being biased, "grievously misleading," "geared toward those who strongly opposed the tree design," and of implying a general class vote on the issue, all by someone who had never seen it. I now submit the actual wording — please judge for

yourself.

"SOPHOMORES: The Ring Committee is deadlocked on the final design choice for the 1981 Rat. The issue: The traditional beaver with sticks (signifying us as engineers . . . building a dam . . .) or the beaver gnawing on a tree trunk (signifying us as beginning engineers . . . taking down a tree . . .). What do You think? As some concerned soph's, we feel the Committee is not paying enough attention to class opinion — after all, we have to wear the ring also — not just the Committee. So express your opinion — come to the final-vote meeting tonite — 7pm — McCormick Lobby. Or call Lori Ullman ('81 Pres.), x5-8448; Tom Chang ('81 VP), x5-9493. Thanks!"

But enough of the initial poster; I would also like to address some of the public criticisms of the poster survey taken last Friday. Of most personal concern are Ms. Ullman's indictments of the drawings used as representative ideas of the "tree" and "twig" versions. As the person who drew them — no, as the person who traced the tree sketch and the beaver for the twig sketch directly from the picture taken around by

(Please turn to page 5)

Who wants what ring?

To the Editor

It was with great distress that I read the opinions expressed in the Dec. 5 issue of The Tech regarding the class of 1981 ring. As Class President Lori Ullman's attempt to mask the real issues behind accusations of 'sensationalistic' journalism and use of the opinion page to defame and attempt to discredit the actions of a fellow class officer.

Many basic contradictions have surfaced in reports of the events which led to this controversy. As a member-at-large of the Ring Committee, I feel it is my duty to report to the class of 1981 and the entire MIT community the facts as seen from within the committee and hopefully clear up several of these contradictions.

Class opinions have been sought as a method for resolving committee differences regarding the ring design ever since the first ring shank conflict. The committee placed a poster in Lobby 7 to solicit class opinion on five alternatives. The results of this poster were declared unobjective and ignored only after it was announced that they differed with several members of the committee's own favorites.

The next attempted strategy at soliciting class opinion was personal poll-taking. This strategy soon proved ineffective as most polls returned to the committee overwhelmingly supporting the opinions of the poll-takers. Few surveys were accepted as being truly objective because nearly all

could be challenged as containing hidden biases. A motion was then passed to have the committee make the final design decision, regardless of expressed class opinion. This decision was supported by those members who felt that the committee was truly representative of the class of 1981 and that they had the right to

represent the class as they best saw fit.

The Mon, Nov. 27 design meeting ended with a 4-4 deadlock vote over the issue of sticks vs. the tree. At this meeting the potential symbolism of the different ring tops and several compromises were discussed. The

(Please turn to page 5)

Proponent of Plato

To the Editor:

Bob Wasserman's brief history of the dissolution of the Humanities Requirement at MIT was valuably instructive, a story of confusion and loss of purpose. But his condescending speculations about the virtues of reinstating a required Humanities subject for entering freshmen are worth a lot less.

There are an astonishing number of fundamental mistakes and errors of judgment in his column of December 1. But I will trouble to isolate only his catastrophically foolish moment. Recommending a syllabus to the professors, Mr. Wasserman expresses the hope that Plato and Aristotle will be excluded because they "are sometimes as difficult to decipher as Calculus."

It ought to have occurred to Mr. Wasserman that the two founding thinkers of the Western hemisphere might reasonably be expected to challenge the mind as deeply as calculus. Mr. Wasserman is not asking for a required Humanities subject, he is asking for a rest-cure.

Require Humanities, he says,

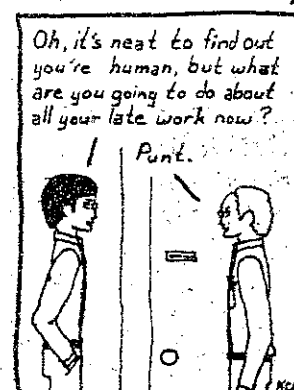
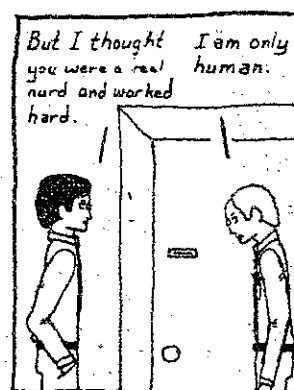
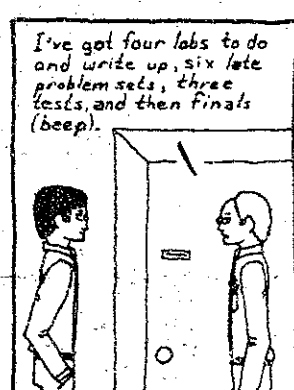
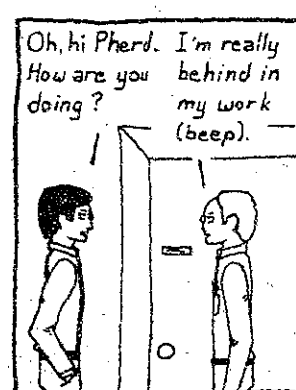
but be sure to spoon feed me on a semester of personal expression to be followed by "a concise but representative survey of literature, drama, and modern thought." This last, one assumes, in a nine-credit subject offered at seven in the evening.

For students interested in a serious experience of humanities there are many first-rate subjects available without duress. Something of the spirit of the old Humanities Requirement is alive and thriving in the offerings listed under the Western Traditions program. There are also a great many fine subjects in literature and history and foreign languages. Of these, I hope I will be forgiven for mentioning 21.110, in which I teach. This introductory subject includes works by Homer, Sophocles, Shakespeare and Tolstoy. I'm confident many students will find it nourishing. It is taught on the principle, familiar to students of science and engineering, that professors establish the syllabus and that students follow it.

David Thorburn
Associate Professor of Literature

by Kent C. Massey

Paul Hubbard



opinion cont.

sophomore sounding-off

(Continued from page 4)

cision now hinged on the vote of a single member of the committee who has been unable to attend more than one third of the committee meetings, including that crucial design meeting, due to her class schedule.

On Tuesday afternoon Jenny Ford, former member of the committee, placed a large poster on a pillar in Lobby 7 advertising the status of the design vote, representing the proposed alternatives, and encouraging sophomores to attend the meeting that evening. Having actually seen the poster, I know no mention was made of allowing all class members to vote and that it urged all sophomores to attend the meeting. No 'underhanded' issue raising was attempted as alleged by Ms. Ullman. The class was being informed of the status of their supposedly representative committee. Although the appearance of telephone numbers of committee members on the poster may have been inappropriate, these numbers were also readily available in the student directory. More relevant is the fact that Ms. Ullman vehemently objected to the publicizing of the issues being decided, informing most sophomores for the first time that a conflict even existed.

As a result of the appearance of the poster, opinions were phoned in, sent in, and carried in personally by many very concerned members of the class. Upon finding a large group of sophomores very anxious to express their opinions of which nearly all disagreed with her own, Ms. Ullman declared that this meeting was closed as were all ring committee meetings (this had never been discussed with the committee before). Another committee member incorrectly cited Robert's Rules (which the committee has never been following) as a grounds for closing the meeting without a committee vote, ignoring the wishes of at least four committee members, including myself, to have an open meeting. Ms. Ullman was very unresponsive to the flood of opinions received that evening as were several other committee members who retired to a separate room to start the meeting while leaving others still trying to collect opinions. In a show of bitterness about the poster, Ms. Ullman publicly lashed out at Ms. Ford and essentially ignored the overwhelming majority of opinions presented that evening. The final design vote was 5-4 in favor of the tree and Ms. Ford resigned in protest to this disregard of class sentiment.

The Wednesday evening meeting again began with protest as students came to voice their preferences. After much heated argument, Ms. Ullman finally consented to reverse the final vote if students could meet her challenge of raising a large enough number of dissenting signatures by the next Tuesday.

A third Lobby 7 poster was seen as the quickest and easiest way of collecting these signatures to meet this mandate. This poster was not sponsored by Ms. Ullman, nor Ms. Ford, but by concerned sophomores and minority

vote members of the committee. Drawings were traced from the original artist's sketch of the beaver chewing on a tree with slight modifications being made so that a beaver could be shown chewing on sticks also. These drawings were extremely accurate and fair, and if anything, favored the tree beaver because he was professionally drawn. Every attempt was made to make the poll as unbiased as possible and widely publicized. Telephone calls to sophomores, signs posted around the institute, and a notice on the front page of The Tech were all used to help spread the word of the poll-taking.

The poll was extremely successful with 40 percent of the class of 1981 participating. The final tally was 372-63 in favor of the traditional stick-chewing beaver. Ms. Ullman was convinced that this was a significant enough expression of dissent regarding the committee's decision, but only after attempts to discredit the poll with accusations of inaccuracy.

The committee is now moving on with the design of the ring using the class's choice of what the beaver is chewing on. In discussing this issue with Mr. Firester and others, I recall stating that I felt Ms. Ullman probably came across worse than she really deserved to in the article in The Tech. She has been an effective leader and the committee has accomplished much under her guidance. But when she resorts to ignoring class opinions, defaming other members of the class, and willfully misrepresenting the truth in an open letter to The Tech, I cannot sit back without speaking out on what I know to be the real truth.

Glenn L. Katz
Member At Large
Class of 1981 Ring Committee
December 6, 1978



Poster's author speaks out

(Continued from page 4)

Ring Committee members, I resent having them called "unfortunate" and "inaccurate" and "a lot different from the actual designs." If the tree drawing was so "unfortunate," why did the committee use it for its own surveys? The only artistic "liberties" taken were: 1) My decision to fill in the backgrounds very darkly to more closely approximate the appearance of an actual ring; 2) The rendition of the sticks. I used the same beaver for both versions in an attempt to set up a "control situation," with just the tree and twigs being the differences for consideration. The descriptions "actual" and "inaccurate," when applied to initial renditions of artists' concepts as compared to the final rings, have practically no meaning, and I fail to see the justification in calling my "renditions" any more "inaccurate" than those hastily procured from the ring company. I'm sure that a poster with those two versions would reveal the same result —

that the class just does not want the tree. By the way, the actual vote turned out to be 372 (twigs) to 63 (tree) — a very impressive turnout for any one-day, Lobby 7 poll!

Which brings me to my last point. I would just like to mention, for the record, that a good deal of effort was expended to try to inform sophomores in the frats and East Campus area of the existence of the survey and the importance of voting. I personally called all floors of East Campus on Thursday night, got through to all but two of them, talked to a sophomore on each floor and asked him/her to tell the rest of the sophomores on that floor about the survey. Everyone I talked to was very congenial, and agreed to spread the word, regardless of which opinion they held personally. Similar calls were made to Senior House and fraternities, although unfortunately

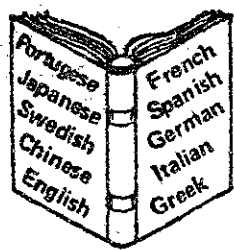
with less successful numbers of actual calls "gotten through." All in all, we managed to contact East Campus, 15 frats, WILG, Random Hall, Bexley, and two floors of Senior House before Friday morning. Also, in addition to notices in The Tech, posters were hung at east entrances to the main buildings and Walker, in hopes of reminding people to vote and of catching those who hadn't heard of the poll earlier. The major purpose of the survey was to get the opinions of as many sophomores as possible — we certainly did not want to ignore anybody. The response was large enough to cause the Ring Committee to reconsider their initial findings, which was also one of the objectives of the poll.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone who voted or got involved in one way or another for your interest and support.

Anne Russell '81

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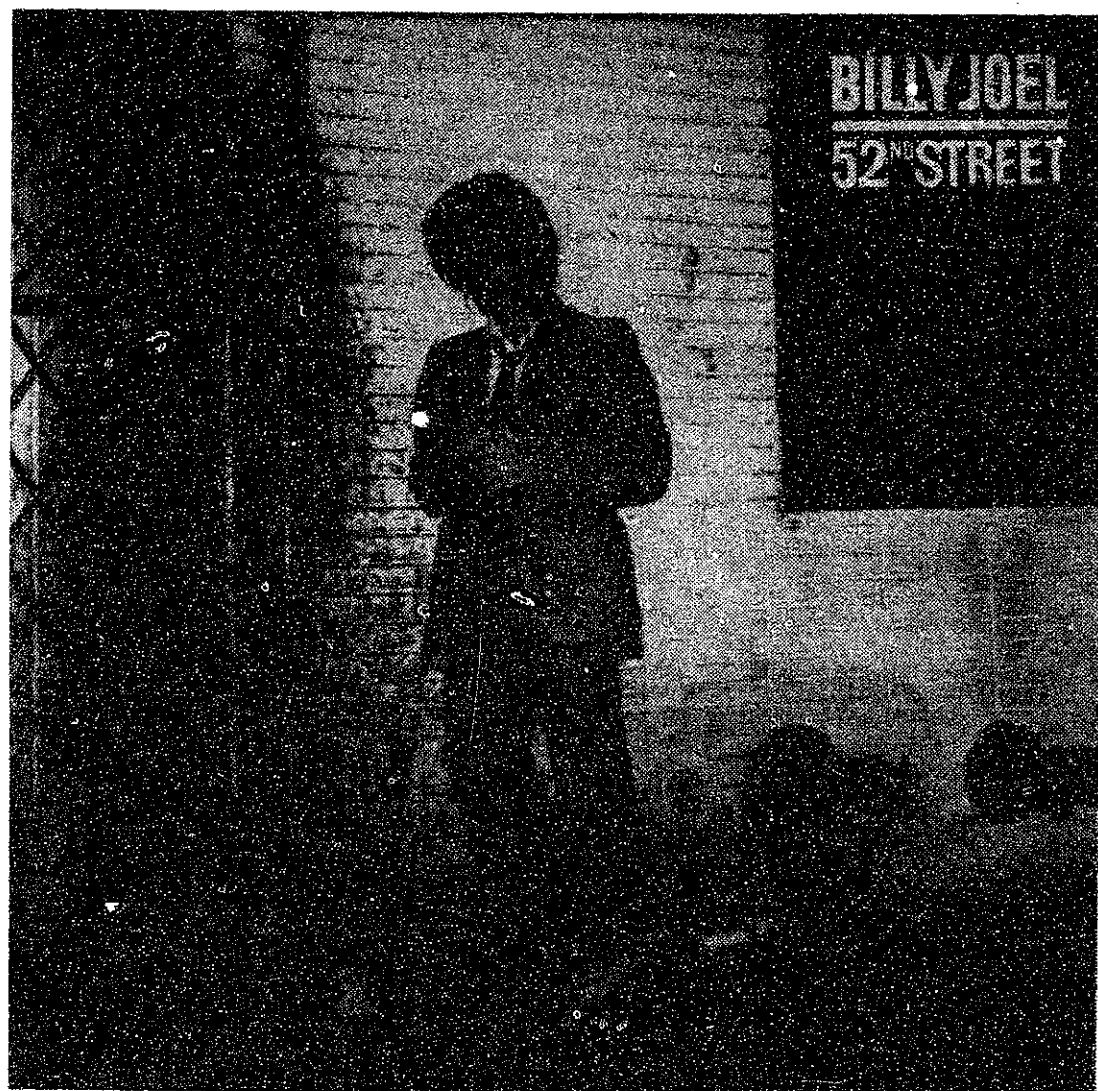


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arts

Billy Joel: no stranger to 52nd Street



52nd Street — Billy Joel; Columbia FC 35609.

By Joel West

For those who have been waiting for this album, wait no longer. Or rather, wait until next year — in spite of its top position on the charts, *52nd Street* is an uneven effort unworthy of its author.

Only a hermit could have avoided hearing the single, "My Life," which has received extensive airplay on all the local rock stations. While the honky-tonk piano is nice, and the background vocals display the subtlety which Mr. Joel is capable of, the song lacks direction. One further caveat: for those whose stomach turns at a disco beat (as mine does), avoid this song.

As usual, Joel's lyrics are inspired compared to those of his rivals in the field. Joel's crisp vocals are impeccable, even on such losing efforts as "My Life." His main problem on this album seems to be coping with the schizophrenia of the pop/latin/jazz/hard-rock fusion that makes his work unique.

Both "Zanzibar" and "Stiletto" feature nice jazz passages, the former for trumpet, bass and drums, the latter for sax and piano. However, the heart of the latter is marred by an insufferable beat "a-thud-thud" that is far from subtle.

The latin "Rosalinda's Eyes" is one of the better cuts on the album. Not content with the evocative vibraphone, nylon-stringed guitar, and suitable percussion,

Joel uses a sopranino recorder where a far less imaginative songwriter would have used a flute. The best number, "Honesty," seems to loosely plagiarize his entire album (*The Stranger*); opening with a modified version of "The Stranger," the verse melody is quite similar to "Vienna" off of the 1977 album.

It's not that this album lacks variety or anything for one to appreciate. The big-band jazz opening to "Half a Mile Away," with horns orchestrated by Dave Grusin, is a novel and attractive opening to what turns out to be just another top-40 type song. The next track, "Until the Night," features a lush of string orchestra with Joel singing in the very low end of his range, where he sounds far better than most rock vocalists who stray from their normal *Tesitura*.

On the final song of the album, Joel has a surprise for us as he did on *The Stranger*. On the latter, the last track is an untitled instrumental on the "Stranger" theme; on *52nd Street*, the title cut refrains from becoming homogenized and retains its jazz flavor throughout — sax player Richie Cannata brings out his clarinet for its only appearance on the album. However, in the inevitable comparison to *Stranger*, *52nd Street* loses, and loses big. In seeking complacency or as a reaction to the blandness (i.e. "polish") that had crept into *52nd Street*, Joel overreacted, giving us a confused hash of styles superimposed on the brief but well-hidden gems that only partially redeem this album.

happenings

AROUND MIT

MIT Press Book Sale, Thurs.-Sat., Dec. 7-9, 10am-4pm in the Student Center; discounts up to 95%.

The Mezz, Fri., Dec. 8, 9-12pm; free.

MIT Jazz Band, Friday 8:30 pm in Kresge. Tickets available free this week in Lobby 10.

The MIT Symphony performs their second concert of the term Saturday: 8:30 pm in Kresge. The program features Mahler's *Symphony No. 1* and the premiere of a song cycle by Music section lecturer Edward Cohen. Free tickets available in Lobby 10.

MIT Brass Ensemble, wide program, Sun., Dec. 10, at 3pm in Kresge Auditorium.

Gallery shows around MIT:

Drawing Made Material, works by Francis Barth, James Ford, and Sandi Slone thru Dec. 19 in the Hayden Corridor Gallery.

AT THE MOVIES

Enter the Dragon (Bruce Lee), the Mid-Nite Movie, Sat., Sala de Puerto Rico.

The LSC weekend lineup:

From Russia With Love Fri., 7 & 9:30pm, 26-100.

Smiles of A Summer Night (Classic) Fri., 7:30pm, 10-250.

Play It Again, Sam Sat., 7 & 9:30pm, 26-100.

Casablanca Sun., 6:30 & 9pm, 10-250.

The cartoons of Dave and Max Fleischer make a one-week appearance at Off the Wall. Between 1927 and 1943 the Fleischer brothers produced such favorites as Popeye, Superman, and Beety Boop. The eleven cartoons will playing December 13-19; for information call 547-5255 after 2pm.

IN TOWN

The Handel and Haydn Society's annual *Messiah* returns to Boston Friday, Dec. 8, and Sunday, Dec. 10. The society's 150-year tradition features a different version each year and is usually the best of the plethora of yuletide performances of Handel's choral masterpiece. For info call 266-3605.

Harvard University Band Sunday Dec. 10 at 2:30pm For further information call 495-2000.

Cheap Trick with UFO at the Orpheum Theatre Fri., Dec. 15 at 8pm. Tickets \$7.50 & 6.50.

AT WELLESLEY

Wellesley College Chamber Orchestra, concert of Corelli, Mozart, Brahms, and Bernstein, Fri., Dec. 8 at 8pm in Jewett Auditorium.

Greg Greenway, singer guitarist, at the Coffeehouse, 3:30-5:30, Sun., Dec. 10.

Wings: the mind speaks

Wings, by Arthur Kopit, directed by John Madden, starring Constance Cummings, at the Wilbur Theatre, 252 Tremont St., Boston through Dec. 23. Tickets \$5.50-\$13.50; call 423-4008.

By Leigh J. Passman

Wings is a fascinating theatrical study of the mind and its inseparable dependence on language. It is hardly a play, but rather the stream of consciousness of a stroke victim struggling to regain her speech.

The play opens with Mrs. Stilson (Constance Cummings) reading in a comfortable armchair. Moments later she experiences a stroke. The stage goes dark, noises and crashes abound, as Mrs. Stilson runs through symbolic dark whirling screens pas mirrors until she is subdued by nurses. The story accounts her struggle to regain her ability to speak in the setting of a rehabilitation center. Cummings' fine acting and detailed facial expression convey the suffering and frustration Mrs. Stilson experiences. Much of her verbalization of thoughts recount her youth as a pioneer aviator.

Wings, while of course more, much more, than simply the dramatization of the rehabilitation process, surprisingly doesn't attempt to articulate a theme. Rather, in the words of playwright Arthur Kopit, *Wings* is "an adventure, a quest, a mystery" of a woman who becomes progressively cognizant of her condition, and indeed, it is a warm and revealing study.

Kopit's interest grew out of his study of the rehabilitation of stroke victims. When his father suffered an extreme stroke, writing about it provided an outlet for him. While visiting his father at the center, he met a fascinating woman in her early 70's, who was once a pioneer aviator. She suffered from severe aphasia, a language disturbance, a result of her stroke-induced brain-damage. Kopit extensively researched the condition and began writing



Constance Cummings portrays a stroke victim struggling to regain her ability to communicate in Arthur Kopit's Broadway-bound play, *Wings*.

a play based on the woman. *Wings* was first performed on *Earplay*, a National Public Radio series, where Madden directed it. Kopit adapted it for the stage, and it was performed by Yale's Repertory Theatre.

Though much of the production's success is derived from Kopit's strong script and Cummings' fine performance, the strong contribution of director John Madden, setting by Andrew Jackness, and lighting by Tom Schraeder demonstrate a strong collaboration. Schraeder's harsh light in the earliest stage of her stroke makes the audience slightly uncomfortable, more understanding and sympathetic to Mrs. Stilson's state. The simple sets by Jackness, dark revolving screens and mirrors double visually as partitions and windows as well as a whirlwind pictures of her mind.

The most apt description for *Wings* is that it is extremely interesting; an unconventional style of theatre portraying a unique condition of mind.

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Friday, December 8, 1978

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WINGS
WINGS

sports cont.

Each grapplers win two of three meets

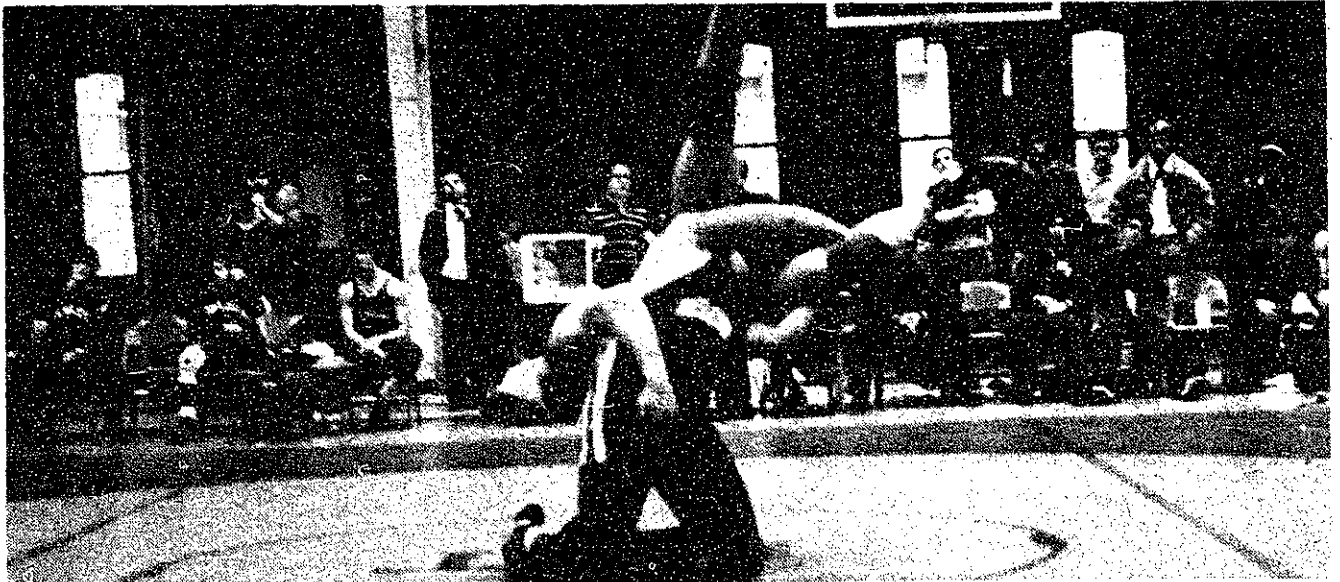
By Rich Auchus
The MIT wrestling team
kicked up two victories in three
meets on Saturday. The Tech
men, captained by seniors
Joe Wrobel and Gary Spleeter,
beat Wesleyan, 20-14, and
Bowdoin, 32-10, but fell to a
powerful and aggressive Western
England team, 31-14.

MIT pinned 5:36 by 142-pounder
John Hairston '79 sparked
Tech's first triumph over
Wesleyan. This was quite an
improvement over last year when
the same squad lost to Wesleyan
3. Rich Potash '81 (126 lbs.),
and Crosier '81 (150 lbs), Chris

Capelli '82 (158 lbs.), and heavy
weight John Stenard '80 won their
individual bouts.

Capelli decked his Bowdoin op-
ponent in 2:58, and Potash and
Hairston racked up big victories,
11-2 and 18-9, respectively.
Stenard, Crosier, Spleeter, and
Hoyt Davidson '79 (167 lbs.) also
scored victories for Tech in the
third dual against Bowdoin.

Coach Wil Chassey was very
pleased with the team's perfor-
mance as a whole. "You can't win
unless everybody does his job,"
he said. "Everybody went out and
did what he had to do." Coach
Chassey added that a few



Heavyweight wrestler John Stenard '80 (upside down) grapples with a Wesleyan opponent in last Saturday's dual meet. (Photo by John Borland)

Track team victorious in dual meet

By Lew Bender
Editor's note: Lew Bender is a
member of the track team.

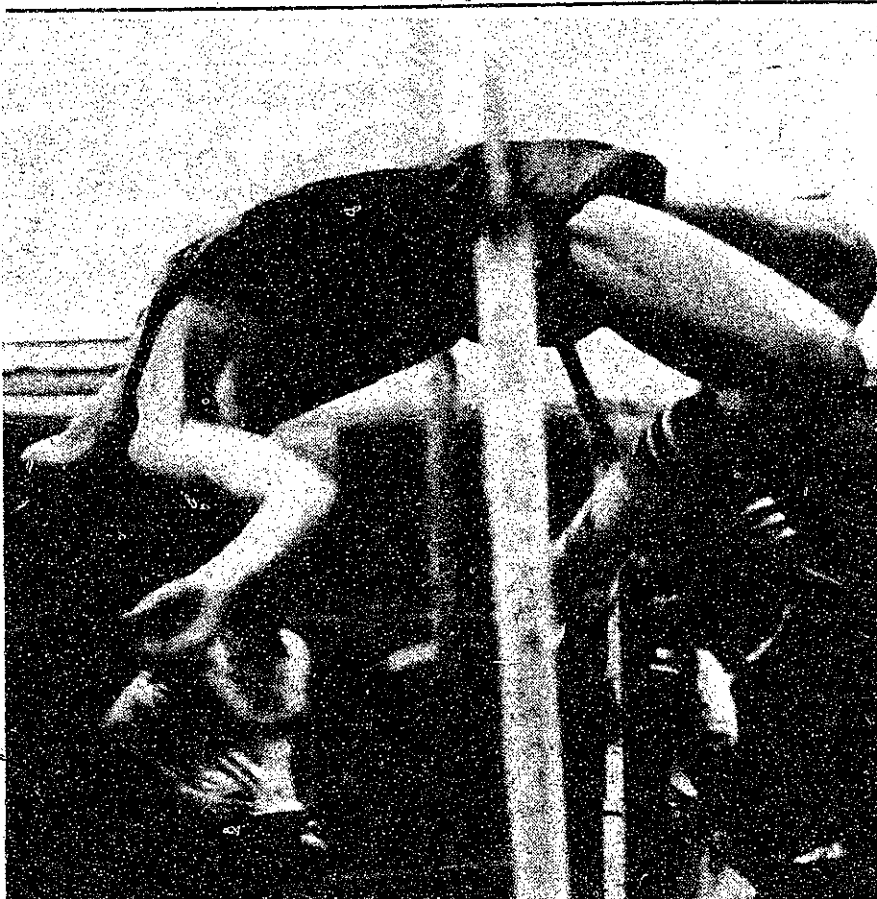
The indoor track season got off
to the right foot Saturday, with a
story over both Brandeis and
WPI. WPI led through most of
the meet, but the Beavers came
back behind to pull out the vic-
tory. The final score was MIT
1/2, WPI 55, and Brandeis 49 1/2.

The most important factor in
winning the meet was depth. MIT
took first place in only four out of
seventeen events, however they took
even second places and four
third place finishes. The winners
for MIT were Kevin Wade '81 in
the triple jump, Jim Turlo '80 in
the high jump, Barry Bayus '79 in
the two mile run, and Eddie
Agenito '81 in the pole vault.

The meet looked bad for MIT
at the start as WPI pulled into a
point lead after ten events.
However, a first and second place
in the high jump coupled with a
weep of the pole vault put MIT
in the lead. Captain Bayus' heroic
performance in the two mile
(9:49.2) allowed MIT to maintain
their slim margin. In an exciting
mile relay MIT scored three
points, which was enough to
clinch victory of the meet.

Head coach Gordon Kelly was
delighted with the team's strong
performance, as the Beavers have
now defeated Brandeis and WPI
for four consecutive years.

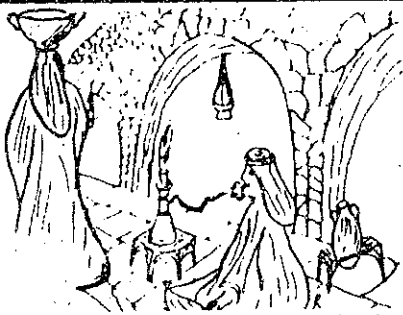
The Track team is now 2-0 for
the season and will have its next
meet today away at Holy Cross.



MIT high jumper Jim Turlo '80 flops over the bar on the way to a win
in last Saturday's meet. (Photo by John Borland)

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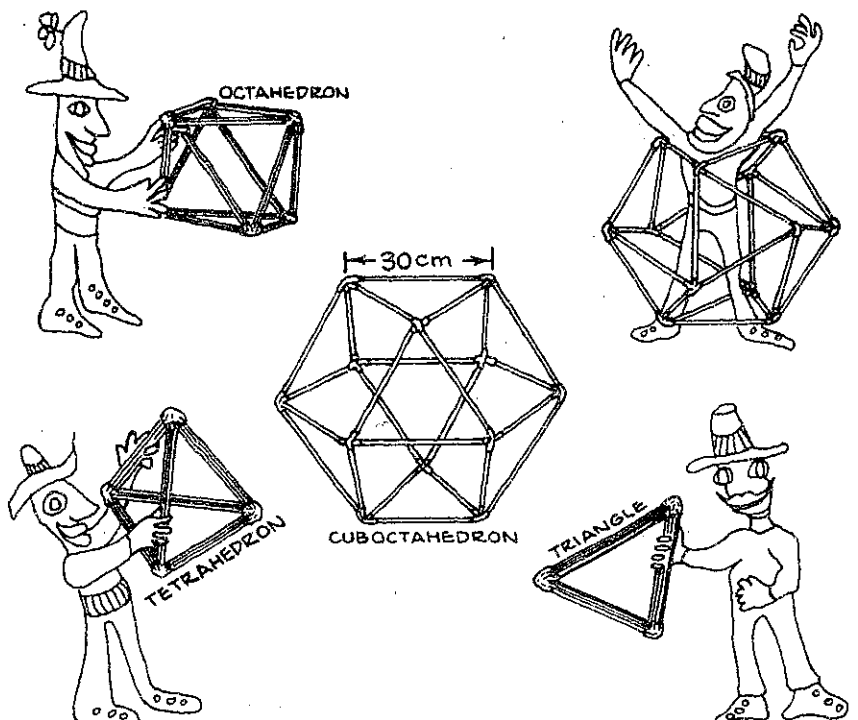


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sports

Men's fencing team dominant in New York meets

By Brian Wibecan

Editor's note: Brian Wibecan is a member of the fencing team.

The men's fencing team rebounded off an opening loss to Harvard by winning two meets in New York and narrowly losing to NYU.

The opener against Harvard, November 29, was a disappointing 15-12 loss. "The team choked," said coach Eric Sollee.

"Sabre and epee did not fence up to par." The score was tied at 9-9 after the second round, but the team could not pull it through. Highlighting MIT's performance were the efforts of captain Johan Harmenberg '81 in epee and Jim Freidah '81 in foil, both of whom won all three bouts. Eric de Beus '82 took two bouts, helping the foil team to a 6-3 victory. Harmenberg's victories were the

only epee wins of the meet.

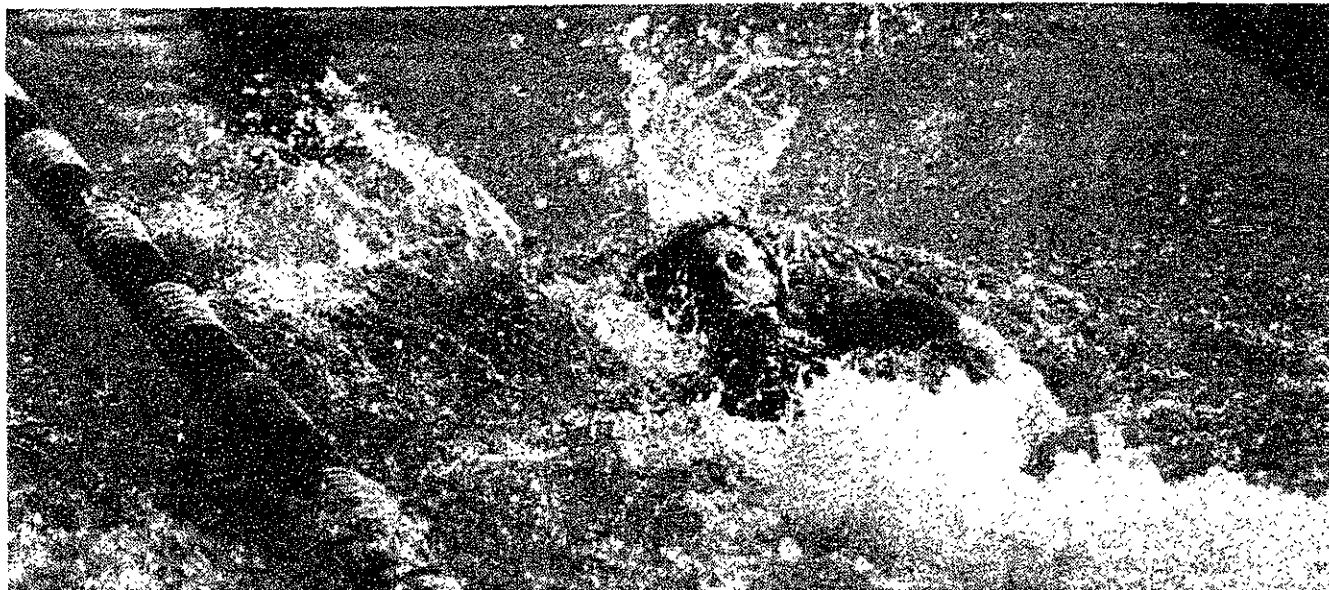
The team bounced back on the trip to New York last weekend, losing a close meet to New York University, 14-13. MIT took the meet to the last bout against one of the top three teams in the nation. Harmenberg again led the attack, defeating all three opponents, including Leonid Dervinsky, defending ECAC Champion and former National

Amateur Champion. Bob Schoenberger '81 won two bouts, losing only to Dervinsky. Dave Heller '79 also won a bout to bring the epee score to a 6-3 upset. In foil, MIT took four bouts, two by de Beus and one each by Freidah and Rich Hemphill '79. In sabre, George Gonzales-Rivas '80, Dalhoon Chun '80, and Brad Nager '82 each defeated NYU's third sabreur.

At Brooklyn College, the Tech fencers got into the winning track, defeating St. John 14-13. Starting off cold, the team held on to win foil 6-3 and lose 4-5 in the other two weapons. Harmenberg went at the forefront for a third time, remaining undefeated. The foil squad, Freidah, de Beus and Hemphill, all lost to St. John's premier foilist, but won the rest. Gonzales-Rivas contributed two sabre bouts to the win.

Freidah and Harmenberg were replaced for the Brooklyn College meet. Even so, the team smashed Brooklyn College 22-5. The foil squad, with Terry Chen '80 replacing Freidah, continued its excellent performance by winning all nine bouts. No more than two touches were scored against an MIT fencer in any one bout; a total of six against the squad. Epee took seven bouts, led by Schoenberger's three. Gonzales-Rivas, Chun, and Nager lost only to Brooklyn's first sabreur to bring in six victories.

The team's impressive showing in New York raised hopes for the ECAC Championships in the spring. This year's schedule is the toughest in the team's history and is already proving to be beneficial. The team's next meet is against Dartmouth on January 20.



Karen Klinecicz '82, enroute to a 1:08.8 first place in the 100-yard backstroke. (Photo by Joel West)

Frosh set swimming record

By Joel West

The men's and women's varsity swimming team stroked to success in the third annual MIT Invitational, held last weekend. Though no score was kept, the MIT teams clearly dominated the three-way meet, which also included the Babson men's team and a coed team from Bridgewater.

For the men it was the only meet of the preseason, affording coach John Benedict a brief indication of this year's crop. Benedict was particularly impressed with freshmen Mark LaRow and David Erickson — rightfully so, in view of Saturday's performance. Erickson set new frosh records in the 100 Free (49.8), the 100 fly (56.1), in addition to winning the 100 Breast. La Row took second in both the 100 Back and 100 Fly, trailing Erickson by 0.7 seconds in the latter event. Returning swimmers Mark Hunt-

zinger '81 and John Dieken '80 also had a fruitful day.

Coach Benedict has his sights on the meet against Amherst, to be held February 10, which has been extremely close every season since the coach came to MIT three years ago. This year, however, he feels confident that MIT will win; the 400 Free Relay, always a problem in past years, is already better than in the four previous years.

On the women's side, Captain Sheila Konecke '80 and newcomer Karen Klinecicz '82 turned in outstanding performances in seven and nine races, respectively. Klinecicz took first in the 100 Fly, 100 Back, and 100 Breast, nudging out Konecke by less than a tenth of a second in the last event. Though still plagued by depth problems, the women are vastly improved from last year, when they lost close meets with only 8 women on the squad. Coach Benedict feels they are the best women's team he's coached here at MIT.

Thirty swimmers from both teams will be traveling to Florida during IAP. The group will train outdoors from Jan. 3-14 before returning to Cambridge for the beginning of the regular season.

on deck

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On December 16th and 17th the Council for the Arts at MIT, in cooperation with the Graduate Student Council and CZR Representatives, will present a weekend of music featuring a recital of Melodies by baritone Vincent Ricento and pianist Thomas Zajkowski entitled French Poetry set to Music incorporating the writings of the great French poets and composers such as Verlaine, Poulenc, Beaudelaire, and Duparc to mention a few. Also included in this weekend will be the Bostonia String Quartet playing chamber music of Mozart, and the Musicians of Cottage Farm presenting Pergolesi's two act comic opera La Serva Padrona sung in English.

The events are scheduled for 8pm on Saturday the 16th and 3:30pm on Sunday the 17th, all taking place in the Little Theatre at Kresge on the campus at MIT.

Tickets will be available in advance or at the door at \$7.50 for both events or \$5.00 each. Students with ID and senior citizens may obtain tickets at \$5.00 for both or \$3.00 per. The weekend is free to the MIT community.

For more program information or ticket reservations call 427-2931.

Digital Hardware Engineers

Production Services Corp., an engineering consulting firm in Waltham, MA will recruit at MIT on Friday, December 8th. A small but rapidly growing company, we specialize in automatic testing and seek individuals with digital hardware knowledge for full time or part time employment.

We are composed mainly of MIT engineers and offer you an excellent opportunity to learn and grow. Contact Career Planning and Placement Office, Room 12-170. Call x3-4733 to sign up for an interview.

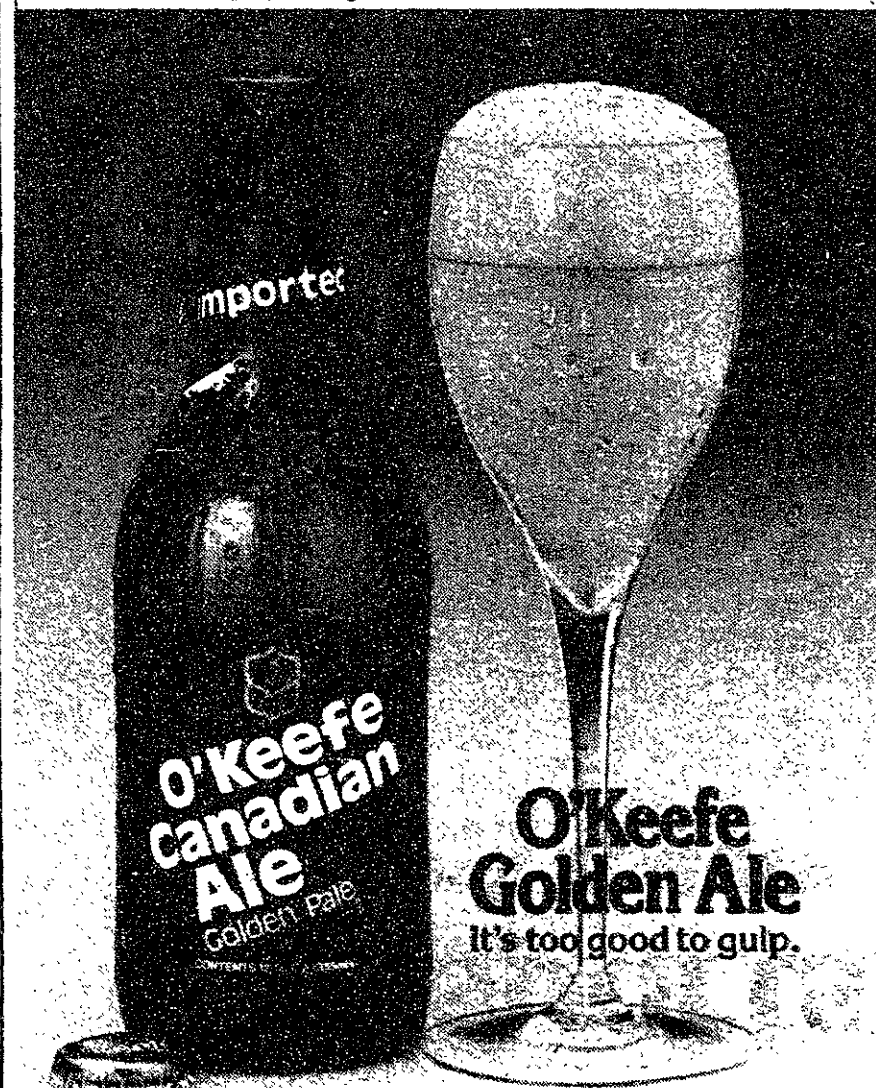
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2. It is smooth and easy going down.
3. Its head commands respect.

Our theory is that Einstein would have concluded: *It's too good to gulp.* Relatively speaking, of course.



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